



*Fall Edition 2017*

## *67th Annual Meeting and Election Results*

### **Supervisor Election Results**

Scott Briggs and Jim Halter were re-elected to the Board of Supervisors for terms beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2020. Halter will be longest serving supervisor in the history of Stark Soil & Water when he begins his 7<sup>th</sup> term in 2018.

**Scott Briggs**



**Jim Halter**



### **COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR**

The Campbell Brothers were awarded the 2017 Cooperator of the Year. The award is given to an individual, organization, or family farm that demonstrates a consistent commitment to protecting and conserving soil, water, and other natural resources in Stark County.

The Campbell brothers – Rick, Randy, and Rodney – grow corn, beans, wheat, and hay on 2,700 acres of owned and rented land as well as milk 65 cows.

The family plants cover crops annually to protect the soil and build soil organic matter. They use grid soil sampling and GPS technology to spread fertilizer only where it is needed. And to better manage water on their fields, they maintain grassed waterways and tile drainage.



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## *Ready for Winter?*

### Winterize your rain barrel:

**Why?: The constant freezing and thawing that happens during Ohio winters can cause cracks in the plastic, or leaks at the water seal sites.**

- 🍁 Drain your barrel and disconnect it from the downspout
- 🍁 Remove the diverter and attach the winter hole cover
- 🍁 Store barrel indoors in a garage, shed, or basement for the winter



**\*If storing outdoors: empty barrel, turn upside down, and place a heavy object on top.**

**\*If you're not using a diverter: reconnect the downspout to direct water away from the foundation**

### Clean your Gutter and Downspouts:

**Remove unwanted material from your gutters and downspouts to allow proper drainage of rain and snowmelt, and reduction of nutrients in our storm water systems and waterways.**

- 🍁 Clean leaves and debris from your gutters and downspouts
- 🍁 Ensure your downspouts are properly draining into your storm water system, ditches, or swales

### Test your Soil:

**Test your soil in late summer or early fall to prepare soil for the next growing season. A fall application of lime or fertilizer can assist the plant in energy storage, resisting winter injury, and a quicker green up in the spring.**

- 🍁 Test the lawn or garden soil
- 🍁 Apply fertilizer or lime after the plant's growth has slowed or stopped
- 🍁 Lime takes effect one year from date of application

Do **NOT** amend soil **AFTER** the first frost

The Farmer's Almanac predicted first frost date is 10/23/17

Contact our Education Specialist, Becca O'Neill for any additional helpful tips for winterization practices around the home at 330-451-7649



## Construction Site WINTERIZATION

It's sure been a long and hot summer, having started off very soggy and now ending up very dry. If you're a contractor busy developing a construction project, now is the time to prepare your site for winter. Whether or not you and your crew intend to labor thru the elements, your adherence to best management practices for erosion and sediment control, both temporary and permanent remain imperative to project success. The following suggestions will ensure compliance with storm water pollution prevention regulations by protecting the environment whilst growing the economy...

- \* **Plan/Sequence Work** (as conditions change, stabilize & secure site prior to idling work and staff)
- \* **Control Off Site Tracking** (by frequently sweeping of roadways and top dressing aggregate entrances)
- \* **Protect Washout Containments / Waste Dumpsters** (by covering with tarpaulins and emptying as necessary to maintain sufficient capacity)
- \* **Stabilize** (all remaining grounds and stockpiles, barren and idle against the elements using dormant temporary seeding and mulching)
- \* **Maintain/Inspect** (all erosion & sediment controls in good repair, frequently checking even when site is idle)
- \* **Secure** (protect site against trespassing by locked fencing and route/mark a safe travel pathway around site thru anticipated snowpack)
- \* **Communicate** (with Stark Soil and Water your winterization plans, periods of idle/limited work, concerns on site and return to work status)

- *Matthew Ferrel, District Technician*

**D**ue to the drastic decline in the population of the Monarch butterfly, the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) is seeking public involvement to collect and drop off common and swamp milkweed seed pods from established plants Sept.1 through Oct. 30 at collection stations around the state. The seeds will be used to establish new plantings and create additional habitat for the Monarch butterfly throughout Ohio in the coming years.

"Common and swamp milkweed is essential to the survival of Monarch Butterflies in Ohio," said Marci Lininger, biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Ohio is a priority area for Monarchs. This generation of Monarchs are also responsible for starting the life cycle all over again in the spring, and laying the following year's first generation of Monarchs in late summer"

Stark County residents may bring their milkweed pods to Stark Soil and Water Conservation District, 2650 Richville Dr. SE, Suite 100, Massillon, OH 44646, Monday – Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. For a list of other Soil and Water Conservation Districts participating in the initiative visit [www.ofswcd.org](http://www.ofswcd.org).

Seed pods from common or swamp milkweed should be collected when the pods are dry and gray or brown in color. If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be picked. It is best to collect pods into paper bags or paper grocery sacks. Avoid using plastic bags because they can attract moisture and allow mold to develop. Store seeds in a cool, dry area until you can deliver to the closest pod collection area. It is recommended to wear disposable gloves when picking and handling pods. Harvesting seed pods from milkweed plants will not have any effect on the population of milkweed in established areas.



NON-PROFIT ORG

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

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PERMIT #1005

### **Stark Soil and Water Conservation District**

2650 Richville Drive SE, Suite 100  
Massillon, OH 44646  
330-451-SOIL (7645)  
[www.starkswcd.org](http://www.starkswcd.org)  
Facebook: **StarkSWCD, Stark County Ohio**

### **Best in Show**

Congratulations to Raegan Harder for winning the 2017 BEST IN SHOW in the Hay and Grain Contest held at the Stark County Fair. Her 90% clover or more hay was judged best overall. Stark Soil & Water and the County Fair co-sponsored the contest. We want to thank everyone who participated in the contest.

### **Producers Breakfast**

Stark County Crop Producers Breakfast will be held at Thompson's Dairyland & Restaurant located at 7519 Columbus Rd. NE, Louisville, OH. **Please note the time change for the last two meetings.**

***November 2, 2017 9:00 am Soil Health***

***December 7, 2017 9:00 am Farm Insurance & Yearly Wrap Up***

### **Buy Credits, Support Conservation**

Stark County farmers generated 3,145 conservation credits for sale by reducing 3,145 tons of sediment from entering our waterways last year. That equals approximately 238 dump truck loads. They also prevented 3,250 lbs of Phosphorus and 6,600 lbs of Nitrogen from entering our streams and ponds. When you purchase credits, the money helps pay for conservation efforts in Stark County next year. For more information about the program and to learn how to buy credits go to <https://www.credits4conservation.com/>

### **Remember Your Cover Crops**

The common denominator for growing everything is HEALTHY SOILS. There are more organisms in a teaspoonful of healthy soil than people on earth. Healthy, fertile soils require organic matter, bacteria, fungi, earthworms and other forms of life. Improve your soil's fertility by planting legume/grass mix this fall after your final harvest. Cover crops (e.g., medium red clover) fix nitrogen naturally, increase organic matter, and build mycorrhizal interactions in your soils with year round roots. These overwintered "armor" crops also provide habitat for beneficial insects, reduce erosion, and help suppress weeds. It is a winning strategy every time. If you would like to learn more about cover crops, please contact Jay Jordan, District Technician, at 330.451.7643